

Berks County Fire Service Working Group Meeting Minutes

April 29, 2010

ATTENDANCE

ZONE 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Bob Schlegan (46)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Yenser (21)
ZONE 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Reeser (82)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Schrack (41)
ZONE 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Lester Feick (27)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Martin (47)
ZONE 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Scot Landis (67)	<input type="checkbox"/> Bruce Longenecker (79)
ZONE 5/6	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt Gehman (22) <input type="checkbox"/> Mike DeTurck (25)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Schaeffer (20) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Stevens (17)
ZONE 7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Moyer (RFD)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Wentzel (RFD)
BERKS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Gottschall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Craig Wanner
BERKS COUNTY FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION	<input type="checkbox"/> Dick Trostle	
BERKS COUNTY FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leon Grim	
BERKS COUNTY FIRE POLICE ASSOCIATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Englebach	

OTHERS: Matt Stairiker (DES) & Robert Zerman (DES)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chris Stevens at 1820 hours in the Berks County Department of Emergency Services Conference room, located in the Direct Link Building, Bernville Road, Leesport, PA.

DISCUSSION

EMS Working Group Proposal

It was reported that the EMS Working Group plans to approach the Commissioners requesting that the field applications (MCT/MDT) of the new CAD systems be included in the overall project. The goal would be to have the same level of service (or better) as the county police units currently have. Currently police units do not pay for licensing or ongoing maintenance of the software, but they do pay for hardware and air card time. The group discussed this and while the feeling was that the field users would see benefits from the project, it may interfere with funding or the new radio system and that is our focus at this time.

A motion was made by Scott Reeser and seconded by Bob Martin to acknowledge the importance of this project but to not support the request in recognition of higher priority projects. The motion carried unanimously.

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Sheriff Department – Operation Lifesaver

It was reported that the project previously discussed, is on hold as the hardware would not be free. The Sheriff's department is pursuing funding for the project.

Dispatch SOP

A change to the dispatch SOP was presented; the SOP currently calls for an 'ALERT 2' tone when a dispatch announcement is to be made on the hailing frequencies; however there has been negative feedback on the type of tone.

A motion was made by Eric Schrack and seconded by Ron Wentzel to change the tone to "ALERT 1 BRIEF". The motion carried unanimously.

Run Card Letters to Municipalities

Brian Gottschall reported that the letters to the municipalities regarding run cards had not been sent. He suggested the following course of action: The letter will be provided to the individual fire companies so they may take the letter to the municipalities, thus allowing them to make personal contact and explain the situation.

A motion was made by Bob Martin and seconded by Eric Schrack to change the tone to follow Brian's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

MCI Run cards

Matt Stairiker and Robert Zerman presented the MCI runcard project that has been worked out with the EMS Working Group and DES. Runcards for MCI incidents have been worked out for each municipality. The criteria for initialization of a MCI incident are set to mirror the guidelines of the Eastern PA EMS Council. These cards may be initialized by responding units or by DES based on information received in the 911 call(s). The plan is provided training on these cards to the DES staff and field users. The EMS working group has asked that the Fire Working Group authorize the insertion of these cards in the run cards for their areas. There would be no action required by the local agencies as the cards have already been filled in by the EMS Group and DES.

A motion was made by Ron Wentzel and seconded by Chris Stevens to allow the insertion of the MCI cards into the run card system. The motion carried unanimously.

Task Force Discussion

The issue of task forces was discussed. DES has received requests for assignments of task force tones from new groups in the county. There have been inquiries as to who decides what are legitimate task forces that deserve county recognition. A question was raised as to whether or not the County should be reviewing the qualifications of a task force prior to granting them recognition and/or tones.

This discussion also led into the administrative use of zone 'all-call' tones. There have been some complaints about 'all-call' tones being used for training announcements, zone meetings and related items.

It was the consensus of the group to take these issues back to the represented zones and request feedback:

- Should 'All-Call' tones be used for administrative announcements?
- Should there be criteria set for task forces being recognized by the County?

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- Should there be criteria set for task forces to be assigned dispatch tones?

Field User Radio SOP

This project needs to get back on track. Volunteers were requested to start working on a fresh draft. Scott Reeser and Chris Stevens will be working on this project.

Berks County Fire Police

Bob Englebach reported that the fire police received two new high band frequencies (narrow band). He also reported that the Association plans to have there 'system; switched over to narrow band by the applicable deadline.

New Cad System

Craig Wanner reported that he visited the York County Communications center to view the cad system in use. In his opinion the questions that arose and/or have been reported to him seem to be set-up and/or system management issues, not software based.

New Radio System Update

Brian Gottschall presented an update on the new radio system. The Kimball study is out and he presented the associated maps for coverage based on the Kimball design. The Kimball design is based on coverage with PORTABLE radios, not mobile radios. The study's goal was 95% coverage in the county with PORTABLE radios. The system plans for 21 or 22 owner sites to generate the type of coverage needed.

Design coverage maps were presented and based on the maps the coverages look very good. There are still areas in the county that by design would not have portable coverage, but the overall design is a significant improvement from today.

The system is estimated to cost \$40 million, WITHOUT user hardware. Brian felt that the commissioners are on board with the plan.

Previous meeting minutes

A motion was made by Leon Grim and seconded by Ron Wentzel to allow approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ron Wentzel and seconded by Eric Schrack to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday May 27, 2010 at 1815 hours in the conference room of the Berks DES at Direct Link.

The meeting was adjourned at 2030 hours.